

Dear Member,

Our next All Branches meeting will be held in Christ Church Hall, Selwyn Road, off Kenilworth Road; Kenilworth, on August 2nd. This hall has been offered for our use, free of charge, for which we are very grateful. As we cannot be certain that the hall will be suitable for our purposes, the August meeting will be a trial one and we shall then decide whether we can accept this generous offer or whether we should return to the Minor Hall at St. Saviour's.

Resolutions for the Regional Conference (to be held on Monday 4th October 1965 at 9.30 a.m.) should be submitted to the Black Sash office before 2nd August.

As many of our members feel they would like more information about the contentious bills recently passed by Parliament, Mr. Gerald Gordon has been good enough to promise to give the August "All Branches" a short talk on these, and to show how the steady encroachment on South African liberties is far from affecting non-Whites only: that "liberty is indivisible" and the rights of Whites are more and more deeply eroded. As this should prove extremely interesting it is hoped there will be a very good turn-out.

Beach Apartheid: The region continued its fight against compulsory segregation on beaches. At the request of one of our Regional Councillors we, as citizens of Cape Town, manned tables in the city and suburbs to collect signatures to support the City Council's stand in this matter - the promotion of adequate amenities without notice boards. Over 2,000 signatures were collected. One member who lives in Clifton, collected 93 signatures from residents in her district (about 90% of the total) protesting against the proposed allocation of a certain beach there.

The Region was represented at the Government Enquiry, which lasted two days, and also at the meetings held in Fish Hoek, Simon's Town, Gordons Bay and Stellenbosch.

On 25th May Somerset West mounted an admirable stand against Beach apartheid.

Protest Meetings and Stands:

(a) A meeting to protest against Proclamation 26 was held on Monday 26th April in the Old Drill Hall. Mrs. Roberts took the chair and the speakers were:

The Very Rev. The Dean of Cape Town	Mrs. Cecilia Sonnenberg
Prof. Donald Inskip	Rev. Clive McBride
Mr. Donald Moltenc	Chevalier Pothier, K.S.G.
Mr. Rufus Kenney	Dr. Oscar Wollheim
Mr. Maeder Osler	Mr. Uys Krige.
Sheik Mohammed Nazim	

Despite the fact that the evening was cold and wet, over 1,500 people attended. The audience was most enthusiastic and the meeting was probably one of the best the region has ever promoted. The newspaper reports accorded the meeting was excellent both here and in other parts of the Republic. The quality of the speeches was dignified and uplifting. The entire meeting was successfully tape-recorded, and tapes of this and a separate one of the rousing speech made by the Afrikaans poet, Uys Krige, are available for use by branches.

(b) Separate Representation of Voters Amendment Bill: A lunch-hour stand was held against this bill on Friday May 14th 1965 with posters in both official languages. The posters read "Tampering with representation for party political ends politically immoral" and "Geknoei met verteenwoordiging vir Party-politieke gewin immoreel". It was felt that this stand attracted more attention than usual.

(c)...

(c) "Vorster's Bills": The Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act and the Suppression of Communism Act required even more than the usual protests. We decided to hold a lunch-hour stand ourselves and we were asked by the Progressive Party to send a representative to sit on the platform at the lunch-hour meeting arranged by them in the Old Drill Hall on Monday 14th June.

About 50 members of the Sash took part in the stand which was held at the top of Adderley Street, outside Parliament. One excellent poster, drawn by a member of the Sash, showed an axe, labelled "New Bills" descending on the "Rule of Law", a rolled-up parchment. The picture was captioned "Ending the Rule of Law?". Two other posters were used, of course in both English and Afrikaans: "Vorster Bills undermine liberty of all" and "If you don't protest you consent".

The public protest meeting was chaired by Mr. Colin Eglin, and speakers were The very Rev. E. L. King, Dean of Cape Town; Mrs. Helen Suzman; Prof. Beinart; Mr. Hamilton Russell; Mr. Maeder Osler. The attendance was excellent and the resolution of protest, read by former Chief Justice A. van der Sandt Centlivres, was carried unanimously.

Black Sash Birthday: On 25th May the Black Sash attained its tenth birthday. The years of struggle, protest, and growth in moral conviction, if not of numbers, were marked by Republic-wide publicity and several celebrations. A first leader in the Cape Times on that day gave us a fine tribute from which we quote the last two sentences which are heartening to those whose spirits sometimes fail: "These women have stayed at the human breaking point of relations between White and African, and perhaps, because of this, less has been broken than we sometimes fear. For that too, all South Africa will one day be grateful to the Black Sash." On the same day's leader page the Cape Times published an article by the Regional Chairman, on the history, development and purpose of the Black Sash.

The Cape Argus gave us a chance to answer our critics by having Philip Stohr level their criticisms at a team of three of our Regional Councillors, Mrs Stott, Mrs. Robb and Mrs. Roberts, who answered the points as they were raised. The interview in the magazine section of the Saturday edition of 29th May was headed by a picture of a stand outside Parliament with two of our most telling posters: "Bly by mekaar en ly honger. Bantu Laws Amendment Bill. Stay together and starve." and "Work without wife and family. Entrenches migratory labour system. Werk ver van vrou en kinders."

Our own Western Region celebration took the form of a Sherry Party held in the hall of St. Thomas' Church, Rondebosch, where a very large number of Sashers and husbands enjoyed the social gathering and excellent refreshments. The health of the Black Sash was proposed by Mr. Hamilton Russell; Mrs. Roberts replied and toasted friends of the Sash: Chief of these, Mr. Donald Molteno, replied for them all.

One of our members, Mrs. Marquard, was able to attend the Johannesburg party, of which she gives an account in the following letter:-

"By good luck I came in for the Black Sash Birthday party last night, and though there will doubtless be a full report in the magazine, I should like to send a brief comment.

I should judge there were about 200 people in Auden House for a supper party - Sashers, husbands and friends, with a good sprinkling of Africans - I didn't see any Coloured. It was a great pleasure seeing many friends, although it was difficult to hear and be heard - a good sign. I told Mrs. Sinclair that had you known I would be there you would have given me many good wishes to deliver, and she asked me to send you all love from the Region.

The...

Letter from Mrs. Marquard continued.

"The supper was itself a great success, made from i.a. five sheep cut up by Mrs. Sinclair herself, with a bewildering collection of puddings contributed by members.

Among others I met Pam Duncan, who sent her love, a little nostalgically.

Mrs. Cluver was in the chair for the speeches, the first, by Murray Hofmeyr, being a toast to South Africa. He briefly sketched S.A. as it is today, and ended by toasting the S.A. we desire. When he had ended Mrs. Kops, all unrehearsed, struck up "Die Stem", and those who knew it sang heartily. Then came Mrs. Sinclair's address, the gist of which I send you in the report in the Rand Daily Mail. It was one of her best speeches yet, and she ended by reading two of the clauses of Magna Carta, to the effect that no freeman was to be arbitrarily taken, or held without the judgment of his peers.

Mr. Kentridge then proposed the toast of the Black Sash in an excellent brief speech pointing out that of all the bodies that rose in protest against Nationalist government action, the Sash was the only one that had survived, and saying of how great value it was, for even if it had not moved the government from its course, it had kept alive the spirit of the values for which it stood. When faced with a choice between "useless" protest and acquiescing in what was wrong, there was really no choice - or rather only one.

Mrs. Hill replied to this in a delightful and vivacious speech, showing how the Sash had grown from its first naive belief that it was going to convert South Africa.

Mrs. Anna Marais then spoke to one of the Africans who struck up "Nkosi sikelele".

Finally the birthday cake, made by Mrs. Sinclair and iced by her son in the shape of a book - the constitution - a most professional piece of work - was cut. Altogether it was a very happy occasion.

My love and good wishes to you all.

(Signed) Nell Marquard.

P.S. Mr. Kentridge caused great delight by foreseeing a future cabinet with the leaders of the B.S. in it, and quoted I forget who about the Muses Nine, "whose leader was fairest, but all were divine."

All Branches: We have had several very interesting talks at recent All Branch meetings. Mrs. Stott told us of the difficulties experienced by people who are affected by the Group Areas Act. Through ignorance of the effects of the law many are forced to suffer financially as well as in other ways. As a result of her talk it was decided to form a committee which would be prepared to assist in areas where the Act is being implemented. The committee consists of Mesdames Stott, Digby, Coplans, Willis, Thorne, Morris, Ritchken, Schurr, Birt and Robb.

The talk was given at the our June All Branches meeting by Dr. Davenport (then of the University of Cape Town, now of Rhodes) on "The Historical Origins of S.A. Ideological Differences". The interest stimulated by his talk was shown in the thoughtful questions put to him afterwards.

Presentation to Mrs. Suzman: It was decided by the Regional Council that it would be a fitting gesture to salute Mrs. Helen Suzman (a Black Sash member) for all she has done to further our objects and - especially in Advice office cases - our work, by presenting her with our badge in white gold - a presentation analogous to that made to Mrs. Ballinger some years ago. It was felt that this should be done while Parliament was still sitting and for reasons of haste the matter was discussed at All Branches only after letters had been sent out to other regions, which have responded generously. It was eventually decided that the presentation would more appropriately come from the Headquarter region in Johannesburg, to which Mrs. Suzman belongs. Headquarters have agreed to this suggestion and will make the presentation at their Regional Conference on August 11th.

Annual Appeal Letter: Our annual letter of appeal for funds has been sent out.

Advice Office: Mrs. Robb has leave of absence for three months during which time Miss Henshilwood will be in charge.

One of our cases:

Fraizman Mboniswa was born in Elsies River in 1946 and was baptised at Nqamakwe as a small boy. He lived at Elsies River with his parents until he had passed Standard. He was then sent to Idutywa to live with his grandmother and to attend school there. His parents remained in Cape Town and have their own house in Guguletu, being qualified persons. His father has worked for S.A.R. & H. for 11 years. His brothers and sisters all reside with the parents. Early this year his grandmother died and as he had passed Standard six and had no other relations to live with in the Transkei, he returned to his parents.

We have been informed that he cannot stay. He should have applied to his local magistrate for permission to proceed to his parents in Cape Town. He was told he could either return and try to get a contract job through the local magistrate or appeal to the Department of Bantu Affairs for permission to stay.

Fraizman has been taken to Langa by our workers and he was given a letter to take to Bantu Affairs Department where he was told to go with his mother. Nothing further happened and Fraizman came back to the Advice Office saying the letter had been taken from him and he had been told to go. He was then taken to Bantu Affairs Department where an official saw him and told him to return on a certain day with his father in order to make an appeal.

The figures for the months March 1965 to June 1965 are:-

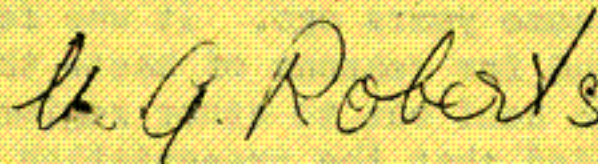
Men endorsed out	159
Women endorsed out	266
Miscellaneous	297
Old cases returned	<u>875</u>
Total	<u>1,597</u>

Average per day 19.

Letters to Press:

Cape Times	Against Official Secrets and Police Amendment Bill - 30th April
Cape Argus	Against closing of the Orpheum and Gaiety cinemas in Claremont/Wynberg areas - 2nd June 1965

Yours sincerely,



M. G. ROBERTS
CHAIRMAN.